

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 USC sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants' presently claimed invention.

More specifically, Applicants note that the Examiner has rejected the claims as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,835,617. This prior art reference, however, is merely directed to an image pickup device which includes horizontal and vertical scanning circuits. The resetting vertical scanning circuit generates vertical scanning pulses prior to scanning of the reading vertical scanning circuits by a shutter time. When the reading vertical scanning circuit performs two-line at a time reading, the resetting vertical scanning circuit also performs two-line at a time reading. The reading vertical scanning circuit reads a signal on the lines reset by the resetting scanning circuit and outputs it as a video signal.

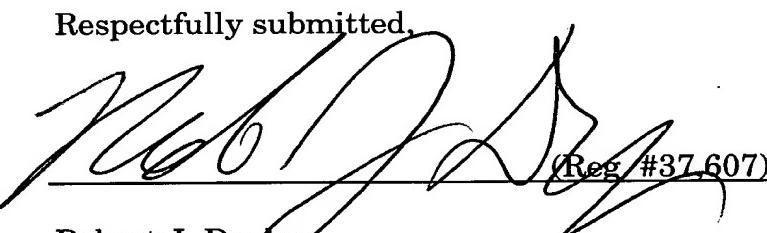
Significantly, in this reference, a signal from a pixel during the reading operation is output through signal line 149 and a signal from a pixel electronic shutter operation is output through a sensor reset drain 139. More specifically,

two signal paths are required for performing electronic shutter operation and reading operation in the cited prior art. In contrast, in presently claimed invention, there is no requirement for the additional signal path for the electronic shutter operation. Both operations occur across a single signal line. Manufacturing costs are therefore reduced. Neither the primary prior art reference relied upon by the Examiner nor any of the remaining references of record provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding this advance in the art. Accordingly, for the same reasons that the independent claims stand allowable over the art of record, the remaining claims also are similarly allowable over the art of record.

In light of foregoing, Applicants request that the Examiner now withdraw the claim rejections and allow all claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 20, 2003

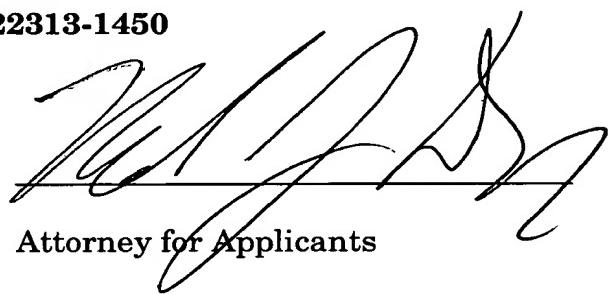


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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. J. D. S." followed by a stylized surname.

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